

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 DHA-05 CU-06 SAB-02 /085 W

-----130374 170557Z /23

R 161959Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3721

INFO PANCANAL

USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 6714

DEPT FOR ARA/PAF AND PAN

USCINCSO FOR J-2 AND PAO

PANCANAL FOR IO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PN

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTIONS

FOLLOWING FROM USIS/PANAMA P R 161956Z SEP 77 SENT ACTION USINFO

WASHDC SECSTATE WASHDC REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO:

QUOTE UNCLAS

MEDIA REACTION

E.O. 11652: N/A

1.-PANAMA CITY--GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED CRITICA AND SEMI-INDEPENDENT
STAR & HERALD SEPTEMBER 16 FRONT-PAGED MEETING OF GENERAL
TORRIJOS WITH PANAMANIAN STUDENT FEDERATION (FEP) HELD THURSDAY
IN DAVIDA, VERAGUAS. CRITICA HEADLINED TORRIJOS' PROMISE TO
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INVITE BACK THOSE EXILES THAT THE FEP WOULD NAME. CRITICA
CARRIED A PURPORTED FULL TEXT OF THE GENERAL'S REMARKS AND STAR
AND HERALD EXCERPTS FROM SAME.

2-AT CONCLUSION OF SPEECH, REFERRING TO THE EXILES, TORRIJOS
SAID THE FOLLOWING: "I BELIEVE SO MUCH IN YOU THAT THE PERSONS
YOU NAME WILL RETURN TO THE COUNTRY, THOSE THE YOUTH NAME.

MAKE ME THE LIST AND ONLY THE PANAMANIAN YOUTH THROUGH THE ORGANIZATION MOST MILITANT AND MOST INVOLVED IN NATIONAL AFFAIRS AS IS THE FEDERATION, MAKE ME THE LIST AND ONLY THOSE CAN COME."

3. REFERRING EARLIER TO PRESIDENT CARTER, TORRIJOS SAID, ACCORDING TO CRITICA, "IT WASN'T HARD FOR ME TO COMMUNICATE ON THE BIG STAGE OF THE WHITE HOUSE AND I THINK IT WAS EASY BECAUSE THERE WAS A SPECIAL CHEMISTRY BETWEEN HONEST PERSONS. THERE WAS, I BELIEVE A COMPLCITY (SIC) OF CLASS, BECAUSE PRESIDENT CARTER IS A COUNTRY BOY (CAMPESENO) AND I AM VERY PROUD OF MY ORIGIN."

4-SEMI-INDEPENDENT LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA, EDITORIALIZING ON THE TREATY PLEBISCITE, SAYS, "THERE IS NOT ROOM FOR THE SLIGHTEST SHADE OF DOUBT AS TO THE OUTCOME OF THE PLEBISCITE. ...(BUT) IT IS INDISPENSABLE THAT THE ELECTORATE TURN OUT TO THE POLLS EN MASSE IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE WITH THEIR BALLOTS THE FIRM AND COMPACT SOLIDITY OF THE POPULAR WILL IN FAVOR OF THE TREATY."

5-THOSE WHO WOULD STAY AWAY THINKING THAT THE RESULT WILL BE OVERWHELMINGLY IN FAVOR OF THE TREATY SHOULD VOTE BECAUSE, "AN UNPRECEDENTED CIVIC MOBILIZATION WILL SHOW THE MORAL FORCE BEHIND THE TREATY, AND EVEN IMPRESS U.S. PUBLIC OPINION AND THE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE. . . VOTING THE DAY OF THE PLEBISCITE IS AN UNAVOIDABLE DUTY OF EVERY PANAMANIAN, BECAUSE IT IS THE FATHERLAND THAT DEMANDS IT OF US."
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6-MARIO AUGUSTO RODRIGUEZ, WRITING IN GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED LA REPUBLICA SEPTMBER 15 CRITICIZES THE TIMING OF THE PLEBISCITE. RODRIGUEZ COMPLAINS THAT THE FORTY DAYS REMAINING UNTIL OCTOBER 23 ARE NOT SUFFICIENT TO STUDY THE TREATY AND FURTHERMORE THAT THE MONTH OF OCTOBER IS THE RAINIEST OF THE YEAR. HE SUGGESTS POSTPONING THE BALLOTING UNTIL THE END OF NOVEMBER FOR THOSE TWO REASONS. ITEM UNQUOTE
JORDEN

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NNN

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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